



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
EDUCATION ACTIVITY  
4040 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22203-1635

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPENDENTS EDUCATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: DEC Meeting Minutes, June 23, 2004

On June 23, 2004, the Dependents Education Council (DEC) met at the Webb Building 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA. The meeting was hosted and chaired by the Honorable Charles Abell, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. A listing of attendees is attached.

**DEC MEETING OVERVIEW:**

Dr. Joseph D. Tafoya, Director, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) and Executive Secretary, DEC, opened the meeting. Mr. Abell provided opening comments and asked the members to introduce themselves.

Mr. Abell commented on the additional help that DoDEA has provided to families whose sponsors were extended in their deployments in Iraq. From 14 sites, online graduation ceremonies were made available to sponsors deployed to Iraq. He expressed his pride in DoDEA for stepping up to the plate to make this possible.

There were no changes or corrections offered to the November 14, 2003, DEC minutes.

The meeting proceeded with discussions and briefings of previous DEC issues. These included:

**INFORMATIONAL BRIEFINGS:**

Budget Update

Ms. Irma Finocchiaro, Associate Director for Financial and Business Operations, provided a briefing on the status of the FY 2004 budget, the FY 2004 Congressional reductions and funding shortfall of \$62.7 million created by the foreign currency

fluctuations in the living quarters and post allowances overseas. Through realignment of internal DoDEA resources and support from OSD, \$49.8 million has been restored to date, and efforts continue to cover the remaining shortfall.

(Item Open)

### Military Construction

Ms. Finocchiaro briefed the members on the status of the FY 2004 and 2005 MILCON programs. Congress appropriated \$52.1 million for construction projects in FY 2004 and DoDEA submitted a request for \$73.0 million in the FY 2005 President's Budget. The FY 2006-2011 MILCON available funding guidance is \$210.8 million with requirements submitted by the two Areas in the amount of \$523.0 million. She also briefed the results of the Worldwide MILCON Prioritization meeting held the previous day. The prioritization meeting reviewed the FY 2006-2011 MILCON program to identify new requirements, adjust for new priorities, prioritize projects up to the OSD funding guidance, and revise the unfunded project list. As a result, the current MILCON Program for FY 2004 through FY 2011 supports all confirmed military restationing and enduring installations, complies with OSD direction to program Guam schools as early as possible, eliminates temporary facilities at 31 schools, and satisfies 45% of current MILCON requirements.

Mr. Abell commented that the DEC needs to be working actively with DoDEA to align what the services are doing so that DoDEA can properly design required facilities for the Guam High School. It will have to be designed with expansion in mind. Gen Begert also suggested there might be a need to look at construction of another high school in Guam at a separate location from the one currently planned. Mr. Abell agreed that might be the final solution, but that it would depend on the final force structure changes and enrollment increases.

There were no objections to the presentation of the plans for the MILCON Program.

(Item Open)

### Force Structure Changes and Facility Impacts

Dr. Tafoya addressed the group regarding the upcoming change in force structure in relation to the impact on planning for the future of DoD schools. He emphasized the ripple effect that could occur if a feeder school is closed.

Further discussion centered on the possible impact of an influx of a large number of students into stateside schools. Dr. Tafoya stated that DoDEA has been taking

proactive steps with Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) to keep them informed. Mr. Molino shared that the Educational Opportunities Directorate has had conferences with state education Activities and is working to set up web sites for parents and schools, and that DoDEA will step up and take the lead.

(Item Open)

#### Summer Opportunities 2004

Dr. Elizabeth Middlemiss, Associate Director for Education and Principal Deputy, DoDEA, reported on the summer school offerings made available to students this year. Over 300 students are taking High School English, Algebra, and Geometry online. The Algebra I pilot (X-Power) is being utilized at four middle schools by 91 students, and is being monitored by two DoDEA teachers who are stateside. This offering could be used along with regular Algebra instruction at some point in the future. Kindergarten through eighth grade students were supplied with Mathematics and Reading web links that contain home activities for them and their parents.

Dr. Middlemiss went on to explain the special summer school initiative that was developed specifically to serve the students of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armor Division. This activity is staffed with dedicated teachers and serves over 500 Kindergarten through eighth grade students.

Ms. Jeannie Davis, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, expressed her thanks for DoDEA's support of children who have parents that are deployed. Mr. Abell commented that this was done with funds from Headquarters, DoDEA, and had no impact on funding in the field.

(Item Closed)

#### Cohort Studies

Dr. Tafoya shared the results of the Cohort Studies with the group. DoDEA wanted to have three years worth of data to measure the impact of programs and the progress of students over time to answer the question "Are we making a difference?" The data shows definite results from the High School POM. DoDEA is working to reach similar results in the middle and elementary schools; however all of our groups are above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.

(Item Open)

### Teacher Transfer Study

The DoDDS Transfer study along with the analysis over the last three years comparing the number of Local Hires, CONUS Hires, and Transfers in each area was presented by Dr. Tafoya. Discussion centered around employment opportunities for military spouses. While it is a bit early to have sufficient data regarding the impact for SY 2004-2005, Dr. Tafoya reported that the results from the past five years show no discernable correlation with hiring patterns in general, and only minimal impact on local hiring.

During this discussion it was stated that there were 11 states that do not accept certification from other states. Dr. Tafoya suggested that spouses who desired certification should work in the DoDEA schools as a substitute while working toward gaining DoDEA certification. This would ensure that they would then be able to work in DoDEA schools. He did state that the Office of State Liaison had been established and could possibly work with the states toward leveling certification across states.

As to the placement/hiring priority of teachers, all agreed that first priority must be to displaced DoDDS teachers. There was considerable discussion concerning the second priority – Local Hires vs. DoDDS teachers. Dr. Tafoya stated changes to the current practices would be premature at this time in light of the upcoming force structure changes.

(Item Open)

### Non DoDDS Schools Programs in English Speaking Foreign Countries

Mr. Michael Lynch, DoDEA Chief of Staff, discussed the Non-DoDDS program issues with the group. He presented a breakout of the number of students participating in these programs in English speaking countries, in a chart depicting the number by service, and the number of students attending in each country.

He reported that a review of New Zealand schools was completed in March of 2004 and that schools in the other countries are currently under review. DoDEA will brief the Fall DEC on the results and recommendations as forthcoming from these reviews.

(Item Open)

### Reserve Eligibility

Mr. Lynch briefed the group on reserve eligibility in DoDEA schools. He covered the options for DoDDS reservists with the implementation of FY 2004 National Defense

Authorization Act (NDAA), and the current, proposed, and OSD/GC recommended scenarios for Guam and Puerto Rico.

(Item Open)

#### Remote Tour Eligibility

Mr. Lynch spoke about the current eligibility status of groups who are “non-command” sponsored students in overseas locations. Considerable discussion centered on the impact that non-command sponsored dependents have on base infrastructure, especially on remote tour areas.

The group noted that one cause for the “non-command” sponsored was the reduced length of the tour of an unaccompanied assignment.

Mr. Lynch will provide the data to the field. Commands and Services agreed to have a definite position for the fall DEC.

(Item Open)

#### SHAPE

An issue paper on Enrollment Eligibility for NATO Dependents at SHAPE International School was submitted by EUCOM for an update on the SHAPE eligibility issue. This paper provides the report and recommendations of the costs associated with U.S. participation in the school at SHAPE.

(Item Open)

#### **ISSUE PAPERS:**

##### Longitudinal Study

Dr. Middlemiss spoke regarding the High School POM longitudinal study which entails the development of data collection methods and the analysis of data to document the impact that POM funds had on student achievement for grades 9-12. The study has been expanded to include support classes in Algebra II, Geometry, and English Language Arts.

(Item Open)

### Compensation for Extra-Duty Assignments

Dr. Middlemiss related the current status of the issue regarding compensation for extra-duty assignments. DS Regulation 5550.9 is being revised to allow payment for extra-duty assignments performed by individuals on substitute teacher appointments at the hourly wage established by the Wage and Salary Division.

(Item Closed)

### National Science Foundation (NSF) Math-Science Partnership (MSP) Grant

Dr. Middlemiss provided an update on the grant competition. The NSF review panel rated DoDEA's application as "Good" and offered suggestions for future submissions. DoDEA will continue to explore these, and other potential funding entities.

(Item Open)

### Meal Programs DoDEA Directive Update

Ms. Finocchiaro stated that the draft revision of DoD Directive 1015.5 had been sent out for coordination and that DoDEA anticipates finalization of draft package to WHS no later than June 30, 2004.

(Item Open)

### Meal Programs Cost Basis Analysis – Alaska vs. Hawaii

Ms. Finocchiaro provided an update on the issue of free and reduced price meal program calculations. It was stated that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), not DoDEA is responsible for determining decisions in this area. The program cost for this change would be about \$3,700,000 to USDA. Mr. Abell stated that additional rationale from EUCOM was not compelling enough for the Department to stand behind it.

(Item Closed)

### AF/NAF ULB Update

Mr. Michael Lynch provided an update that the DoD lawyers had given to Congress awaiting markups and then final language.

(Item Open)

### Contractor ULB Update

Mr. Michael Lynch provided an update that the Contractor ULB was not forwarded to Congress as one Service voted to 'delay' until AF/NAF was approved. DoDEA plans to resubmit this year.

(Item Open)

### Updates on Planned Changes on Military Installations

Dr. Tafoya reminded the group of the importance of keeping DoDEA in the loop on force structure changes.

(Item Open)

### Proposed DEC Meetings Schedule

It was noted that some members have a conflict with the November 4, 2004, date proposed for the fall DEC. DoDEA will contact all parties if a change is made.

### Open Discussion

There were a series of questions and discussions concerning the status of the DDESS Transfer Study. Mr. Abell stated that the study is under review in the Pentagon and referenced any action that might be considered would be addressed in next year's legislative cycle.

### Final Comments

It was noted that OSD P&R had recently held a forum for a call for action for Foreign Language as a part of the global war on terror and 9/11. The forum was a spur to action in teaching languages to our children. Dr. Tafoya said it's one of DoDEA's priorities and that DoDEA will look at host nation program. Dr. Middlemiss stated that the Education Directorate had representation at the conference and agreed that an increased emphasis on foreign languages is a focal point for future.

Mr. Abell noted at the ACDE in Japan they bade farewell to Gen. Lowe. He noted that both Gen. Begert and Gen. Lowe are attending their last DEC meeting. He expressed sincere appreciation for their professional care and concern for our children and stated that they have been good counsel during their terms on the DEC.

Joseph D. Tafoya  
Executive Secretary